



HOUSING NEWS

 KEEPING HOUSING ISSUES IN THE FOREFRONT 

MISSOURI POVERTY SUMMIT TO BRING REGIONAL APPROACH TO ENDING POVERTY

In 2007, nearly 800,000 Missourians lived at the poverty income level. For a single individual that meant an income of less than \$10,590 per year, or \$203 per week. That's about every seventh or eighth person you might run into, barely subsisting, and in some areas of the state, poverty is far more prevalent than the average. A coalition of agencies called Missourians to End Poverty intends to challenge this persistent paradigm by convening the first-ever Missouri Poverty Summit at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City on June 9, 2009.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Missouri Poverty Summit to Bring Regional Approach to Ending Poverty	1
More Than 1.5 Million Children Experience Homelessness at Least Once a Year, Report Finds	2
Funding News	2
TAC Releases "Priced Out in 2008" Study	4
MHDC Releases 2009 Homeless Study	5
St. Patrick Center: 'Servant to the Poor' of St. Louis	6
Regional Housing Meeting Schedule June 2009	7



The Poverty Summit will feature three guest

speakers and a panel discussion. The guests are Sister Berta Sailor of Operation Breakthrough; Kimberly Keith, an entrepreneur and former client of Ozark

Action Community Action Agency (OACAC); and Doug Pitt, founder of Care to Learn. Operation Breakthrough is a Kansas City non-profit agency providing a broad range of social services to working-poor families including early childhood education, medical, dental and mental health care, and case management. Care to Learn is a Springfield-based foundation working on child hunger, health and hygiene. The panel discussion will focus on the five 'pillars of poverty': hunger, health, education, housing and energy, and economic and family security. Liz Hagar-Mace of the DMH Housing Unit will be the panel's expert on housing issues.

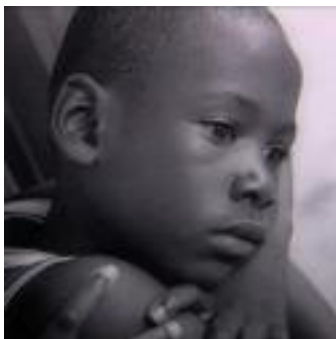
Along with the focus on multiple causes of poverty, what makes this event promise to be unusual is that participants will be asked to help form permanent regional groups that will attempt to address local poverty-related needs on a local basis. "Our Vision," states a flyer for the event, is "...a just society of shared responsibility by individuals, communities, business, and government in which all individuals are respected, have opportunities to reach their full potential and to participate in thriving, diverse, sustainable communities."

Registration is \$35 or the general public, \$25 for students and seniors, and \$10 for low-income persons. For more information, please visit the [Missouri Association for Community Action web site](#). 



More Than 1.5 Million
Children Experience
Homelessness at Least
Once a Year, Report Finds

More than 1.5 million children across the United States—one out of every fifty—experience homelessness at least once a year, a new report from the [National Center on Family Homelessness](#) finds.



Funded by the [Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation](#), the report, [America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness](#), examined data from all fifty states along four performance factors: extent of child homelessness; child well-being; risk for child homelessness; and state policy and planning efforts. Children experiencing homelessness were found in all states, with the most found in Texas, Georgia, Arkansas, New Mexico, and Louisiana. The list of states with the lowest rates of child homelessness was topped by Connecticut, followed by New Hampshire, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and North Dakota.


The report also found that homeless children are far more likely to suffer chronic health problems, repeat a grade in

school, and drop out of high school. To help address these and other issues, the report offers a number of policy recommendations, including increased federal spending on low-income and affordable housing, providing financial assistance to struggling renters and homeowners, addressing family employment and income needs, investing in child care for homeless children, and including homeless children in all federal and state plans to end homelessness.

The report uses a far broader definition of homelessness than that used by DMH in its HUD-funded Shelter + Care rental assistance programs. Derived primarily from the Department of Education subpart of the [McKinney-Vento Act](#) (Title X, Part C), the definition used in the report includes children from 0 to 18 years of age who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as *doubled-up*);
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Abandoned in hospitals;
- Awaiting foster care placement;
- Using a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

The data used in the report were obtained from the U.S. Department of Education, which requires all state-funded education agencies (a.k.a. Local Education Agencies or LEA's) to count the number of children enrolled in schools who meet the above definition; the data obtained were from the year 2005-2006. The numbers of homeless children age six or under were extrapolated by using prior research that suggests that 42% of homeless children are age six or less. The report notes that in the reporting year, only 77% of the LEA's submitted the required information, and this leads the authors to believe that the results of the report constitute an *under-reporting* of the problem. In addition, unaccompanied homeless youth were not included in the report at all. 

Funding News

\$

[WHO Foundation Offers Grants for Grass-Roots Charities](#)

Deadline: September 5, 2009

The [WHO Foundation](#) ("Women Helping Others") nationally supports grass-roots charities



serving the overlooked needs of women and children. Grants are provided to organizations serving women and/or children in the United States and Puerto Rico. Specific projects and programs addressing health and social service needs are the WHO Foundation's priority. The Foundation recognizes the value of new programs created to respond to changing needs and will consider funding projects of an original or pioneering nature within an existing organization.



For example, in 2009 the WHO Foundation awarded grants to the following organizations and projects, among others:

Glendale Healthy Kids, Glendale, CA, received \$10,000 to provide 8,000 uninsured children with toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, as well as eyeglasses and asthma education as needed.

The Hiding Place, Baltimore, MD, was granted \$15,000 for housing, transportation, utilities and nutritious meals for 20 women and their newborn infants.

Ruth's House of Hope, Faribault, MN requested \$10,000 and received \$16,000 to help women and their children in recovery from violence, oppression and homelessness. The additional funds will make sure that fresh milk is available each day.

Grand Rapids Wheelchair, Grand Rapids, MI received \$4,000 to purchase sports wheelchairs for disabled children.

In order to qualify for funding, an organization must have 501(c)(3) non-profit status through the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and be qualified to receive deductible charitable contributions. Organizations must have been incorporated for a minimum of three years prior to application. If you have received a WHO Foundation grant in the past, please wait three years before applying again. Preference will be given to organizations with



an operating budget of \$3 million or less, those not dependent upon government grants, and those with greater organizational program costs than personnel costs. The Foundation funds only certified 501(c)(3) organizations and does not fund the following types of organization, activities or purposes:

- Personal requests, loans or scholarships to individuals
- Educational institutions
- Endowment campaigns
- International programs or projects
- Government agencies

- Fiscal agents
- Religious organizations
- Political causes, candidates, organizations or campaigns
- Foundations that are grant making institutions
- Advertising in charitable publications
- Sports organizations
- Labor groups
- Research Projects
- Travel for individuals or groups
- Conferences, galas, charity balls, sponsorships, seminars, or reunions
- Capital campaigns
- Salaries
- Building campaigns (i.e. Habitat for Humanity)

For more information on how to apply and to obtain an application, please visit the link below.

Link:

http://www.whofoundation.org/Funding/Who_funding.asp



Federal Home Loan Bank to Begin Affordable Housing Program Funding Round

Deadline: register by May 29, 2009; application period is May 1-June 30, 2009



The [Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines \(FHLB\)](#) begins the funding process for its Affordable

Housing Program on May 1, 2009. In the past there have been two funding rounds per



year, but this year only a single round is offered.

In partnership with member financial institutions and local community development organizations, FHLB helps finance affordable housing—both owner-occupied and rental housing. The funds will be provided in the form of subsidized interest rates on advances from the Bank or as direct subsidies for housing projects that meet program eligibility criteria. Applicants must register with FHLB no later than May 29, 2009, in order to submit an application.

For complete information, including links to application manuals and registration, please visit [FHLB's web site](http://www.fhlb.com).

Link:

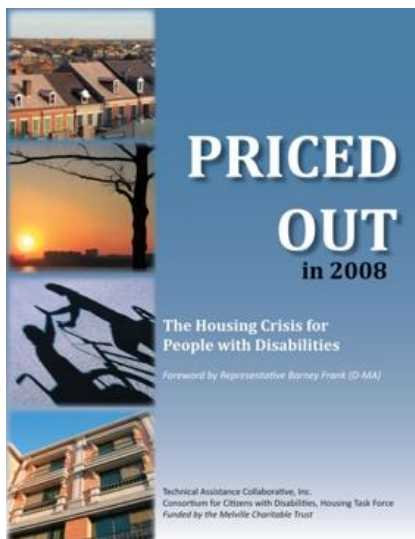
http://www.fhlb.com/ci_ahp.htm



TAC Releases "Priced Out in 2008" Study

On April 13, 2009, the [Technical Assistance Collaborative \(TAC\)](#) and the [Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force \(CCD\)](#) released [Priced Out in 2008](#), their latest study documenting the housing crisis affecting people with the most serious and long-term disabilities who rely on the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to meet all their basic needs. Across the United States in 2008, people with disabilities living on SSI payments continued to experience an extreme housing

affordability crisis as rents for moderately priced studio and one-bedroom apartments soared above their entire monthly income. The national average rent for a one-bedroom unit climbed to \$749 per month and the studio/efficiency unit rent to \$663 per month in 2008—both higher than the national average monthly SSI payment of \$667.



These statistics are some of the important findings in this latest edition of the *Priced Out* studies—a bi-annual analysis of the severe housing affordability problems of the more than 4 million people with disabilities who must survive on incomes far below the federal poverty line. The study compares monthly SSI payments of people with serious and long-term disabilities to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Market Rents for modestly priced rental units. *Priced Out* is published every two years by TAC and CCD.

In 2008, 219 housing market areas across 41 states had modest one-bedroom rents that

exceeded 100 percent of monthly SSI, including 25 communities with rents over 150 percent. Between 2006 and 2008, the number of housing market areas with modest rents higher than SSI rose from 164 to 219—a 34 percent increase. For the first time, there were 3 housing market areas - Honolulu (HI), Columbia City (MD), and Nantucket County (MA)—where SSI recipients needed to spend over 200 percent of their income for a modest 1-bedroom housing unit.


The report illustrates a relentless decline in housing affordability for SSI recipients since 1998 when the first *Priced Out* study was published. During the past 10 years, rents for one-bedroom units rose from 69 percent to 112 percent of monthly SSI. The root cause of the nation's most hidden housing crisis is clearly revealed in the statistics included in the 2008 edition of *Priced Out*.

This lack of affordable, accessible and integrated housing opportunities means that hundreds of thousands of extremely low income people with disabilities continue to live unnecessarily in expensive and/or segregated settings such as psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, board and care facilities, and homeless shelters. Thousands of other adults with long-term disabilities remain at home with aging parents over the age of 65—a situation that grows worse every year.

In the report, TAC and the CCD Housing Task Force urge the federal government to take the



following actions to address the housing crisis documented in *Priced Out in 2008*:

- Enact Section 811 legislation that will create at least 5,000 new units of permanent supportive housing each year.
- Provide 10,000 new Housing Choice Vouchers for People with Disabilities in HUD's annual budget.
- Support the Administration's proposal to appropriate at least \$1 billion in funding for the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- Remove Barriers to Permanent Supportive Housing in the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.
- Facilitate a Coordinated Disability Housing Policy Across the Federal Government.
- Reinvigorate Fair Housing Enforcement. 

MHDC Releases 2009 Homeless Study

For the first time, the [Missouri Housing Development Commission](#) has compiled and released a nearly comprehensive study of the numbers of homeless persons in Missouri. Made public on April 15, 2009, the study combines 'point-in-time' count data (where persons are physically counted statewide all on a single day) and homeless management information system (HMIS) data. An HMIS is a shared electronic database mandated by HUD to collect and report on information about the use of homelessness services such as emergency shelters and

transitional housing programs, among others. Each [Continuum of Care \(CoC\)](#) in the state operates an HMIS, and each of the eight CoC's in the state contributed its data to the report except for the St. Louis County CoC.

2008 HUD HOMELESS ASSISTANCE AWARDS ANNOUNCED IN FEBRUARY

Many readers may not have seen the actual size or extent of the projects awarded by HUD in Missouri via the 2008 competitive Continuum of Care process—almost \$28 million dollars worth of assistance. A PDF file containing a complete list of these awards is available at the DMH Housing web site, and can be opened by clicking [here](#).

The point-in-time data used in the report comes from counts held in January 2007 and January 2008; the HMIS data was collected over the calendar year 2007. The differences between the two sources require separate analysis. Point-in-time counts don't provide a lot of demographic detail but include a broader field of sources, such as physically counted unsheltered persons and persons in domestic violence shelters. HMIS data provides very detailed demographic information about people using homelessness services but

doesn't necessarily include all unsheltered persons, and does not include information from domestic violence shelters because of long-standing confidentiality concerns. Only agencies who receive HUD funding are required to contribute data to their local HMIS.




HOMELESS STUDY 2009

With the above in mind, the report cites the statewide January 2007 point-in-time figures of **6,231** homeless individuals, **1,760** of whom were counted as unsheltered. HMIS data indicate a total of **18,547** people using housing services for homeless persons over the course of 2007. Those services consist of emergency shelters (13,005 people), transitional housing programs (3,003 people), permanent supportive housing for homeless persons (875 people), and Shelter Plus Care rental assistance for homeless disabled persons (1664 people).

The report also usefully breaks down the larger pieces of data into easy-to-read maps and pie charts, showing, for instance, homelessness by county, by age, and by prior living situation,



among other factors. It also describes policies and programs currently in effect for various subpopulations such as veterans, students, and ex-offenders.

[“Homeless Study 2009”](#) is available at MHDC’s web site (56 pages, PDF). 

St. Patrick Center: ‘Servant to the Poor’ of St. Louis

In solidarity with the traditional social teaching of the Catholic Church, St. Patrick Center embraces the attitude of Jesus as servant to the poor. We espouse a spirituality that places our clients at the center of all decisions.—St. Patrick Center Spirituality Statement



In each issue of “Housing News” we like to profile an agency involved in homelessness issues in Missouri, but using a word like “involved” to describe the activities of St. Patrick Center of St. Louis would be a gross understatement. The biggest homelessness services provider in Missouri, St. Patrick Center operates 28 homelessness programs with 12 partner agencies, and assists over 9000 households and individuals each year. Since 1983, the agency has assisted over 123,000 people experiencing homelessness.

St. Patrick Center’s (SPC) homelessness initiatives include:

- Neighborhood Support: a crisis intervention and homelessness prevention program, SPC assisted 791

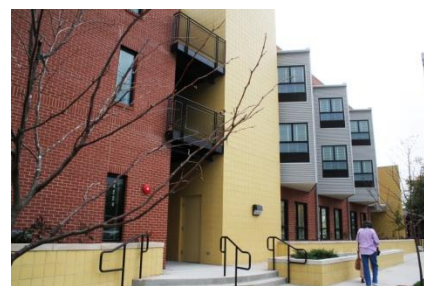
families in 2008 by preventing evictions, foreclosures and defaults; helping to restore utility connections; and assisting with food and transportation.

- Independent Living Skills Program: SPC has operated this program since 1986 and it has since become a state-certified national model for teaching living skills to parents in emergency shelters, transitional programs, and even those living on the street. Over 300 people per year gain skills in child development, prevention of child abuse, career readiness and obtaining permanent housing, to name a few.

- The Partnership Center: envisioned by SPC’s former Executive Director Leo Paradis, since 2000 the Partnership Center is both the headquarters for St. Patrick Center and a one-stop ‘continuum of care’ where 13 agencies offer their services in one building. Among these are BJC behavioral Health, Birthright Counseling, Catholic Charities Housing Resource Center, and the Greater St. Louis Dental Society.

- Key Player Initiative: launched in August 2007, the goal of the Key Player Initiative is to raise one million Housing Program dollars annually by Fiscal Year 2011. Money raised pays for rent, utilities, Livings Skills classes, case work and program costs. At just \$2000 per client, one million dollars raised annually will end homelessness for 500

individuals and families each year. Kellwood Foundation took the corporate lead and made a 5-year commitment with a financial contribution that will total \$195,000. The Archdiocese of St. Louis Catholic Schools took the lead when elementary and high schools committed to raise \$100,000. In an April 2008 news conference, Catholic School students announced that they raised \$221,000 during the school year.



Rosati Apartments


One of St. Patrick Center’s most ambitious initiatives to date is still evolving: the creation of Rosati Campus. The Rosati Campus will be a varied set of supportive housing settings located in north St. Louis in the vicinity of the 4200 block of North Grand. Last October, SPC announced the opening of Rosati Apartments, a 26-unit complex for chronically homeless men and women (see [full story in the October 2008 issue of “Housing News”](#)), which is next door to the previously built Rosati Group Home. SPC’s Rosati Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team helps provide long-term stability for residents of Rosati Apartments. SPC plans to rehabilitate a 22-room motel in the area into Rosati Safe Haven, an 11-unit safe haven-style supportive



housing project for chronically homeless persons; and following that, SPC plans to acquire and rehabilitate nine four-unit apartment buildings in the same area, to be known as Rosati Place. As a whole, the Rosati Campus will not only provide an



array of needed housing services to the area but will revitalize the area economically as well.

For more information about St. Patrick Center's numerous other projects and initiatives, please visit their [web site](#). 

Regional Housing Meeting Schedule June 2009

Staff from the [Missouri Housing Development Commission](#) will continue to facilitate regional housing meetings around the state. Attending one of these meetings is a great way to generate public discussion about housing and homelessness needs in your area. Please contact Heather Bradley-Geary, MHDC, at 816-759-7201 for further information. Below is the schedule for June 2009:

Regional Housing Meetings March 2009	
Date/Time	Location
6/2/09 9am	Church Army 501 S. 6th Branson
6/2/09 2pm	Texas Co. Food Pantry 102A E. Hwy 17 Houston
6/3/09 9am	United Gospel Rescue Mission 508 Cherry St. Poplar Bluff
6/3/09 2pm	DAEOC 99 Skyview Road Portageville
6/4/09 9am	BJC Behavioral Health 1085 Maple St. Farmington
6/5/09 9am	MASW 606 E. Capitol Jefferson City
6/8/09 9am	Pettis Co. Community Partnership 515 S. Kentucky Sedalia
6/8/09 3pm	NECAC 917 Broadway Hannibal
6/10/09 9am	Community Services, Inc. 1212 S. Main Maryville
6/10/09 2pm	Green Hills Community Action 1506 Oklahoma Ave Trenton
6/11/09 9am	Kirksville Gardens Apts. 1501 S. Jamison Kirksville



**Department of Mental Health
Housing Team**
1706 East Elm St., PO Box 867
Jefferson City, MO 65101
573-751-9206

Housing News is published by the Missouri Department of Mental Health, Housing Team. It is distributed free to Missourians interested in housing issues.

Liz Hagar-Mace, Director
Dirk Cable, Editor



Visit us on the Web at:
www.dmh.mo.gov/ada/housing/housingindex.htm

Contact us by email at:
housing@dmh.mo.gov

